

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 02926 280449Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 /031 W

-----280508Z 022671 /20

P R 280124Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0291

USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2926

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: REFERENCE TO TEMPORARY
ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY ON CARPETS AND CARPETING

REF: 75 CANBERRA 3150

1. MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS HAS FORWARDED
REFERENCE TO TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY (TAA) ON QUESTION
OF NEED FOR TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL MANUFACTURERS
AGAINST IMPORTS OF CARPETS AND CARPETING FALLING WITHIN
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF ITEMS 58.01 AND 58.02 (EXCLUDING
TERRY FABRIC CARPETS).

2. PUBLIC INQUIRY WILL BE HELD ON MAY 10, 1977 AT THE IAC
BUILDING, CANBERRA. TAA IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ITS REPORT
BY MAY 22.

3. U.S. IS A SIGNIFICANT SUPPLIER OF CARPET FALLING WITHIN
TARIFF ITEM 58.02. LATEST FIGURES EMBASSY HAS AVAILABLE
(FY75) SHOW THAT IMPORTS FROM U.S. WERE VALUED AT ADOLS 7.2
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MILLION, WHICH REPRESENTED 17 PCT OF TOTAL IMPORTS VALUED
AT ADOLS 43.4 MILLION.

4. 75 CANBERRA 3150 REPORTED THAT TARIFF QUOTAS WERE TO BE
APPLIED TO CARPET IMPORTS. COMPLEX FORMULA WAS ESTABLISHED
WHEREBY QUOTAS WOULD BE "TRIGGERED" WHEN IMPORTS DURING
SUCCESSIVE THREE MONTH PERIODS EXCEEDED CERTAIN LEVELS.

ALTHOUGH QUOTAS HAVE NEVER BEEN IN EFFECT, IT IS
BELIEVED THAT IMPORTS HAVE EXCEEDED THE "TRIGGER" LEVEL.

5. THIS WOULD APPEAR TO EXPLAIN DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL
PRACTICE IN THAT DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (DIC)
DID NOT SOLICIT SUBMISSIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES AS TO
WHETHER TEMPORARY PROTECTION WAS WARRANTED. IN PRESS RELEASE
ACCOMPANYING REFERENCE, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
STATED "AUSTRALIA CARPET MANUFACTURERS HAD REQUESTED
ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AGAINST IMPORTS. THE GOVERNMENT
BELIEVED A PRIMA FACIE CASE WARRANTING A REFERENCE EXISTED."

6. USDOC IS REQUESTED TO URGE U.S. MANUFACTURERS TO PRESENT
THEIR VIEWS AT PUBLIC HEARING, EITHER THROUGH DIRECT
SUBMISSIONS, OR SUBMISSIONS THROUGH IMPORTERS. SUBMISSIONS
MAY BE MADE BY TELEX: INDCOM AA62283. CONSULATES SHOULD
CONTACT AGENTS OF U.S. MANUFACTURERS TO ENSURE THEY ARE
AWARE OF THIS REFERENCE AND URGE THEM TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS.
PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770148-0312
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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